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Intel tops EPA commuter-friendly list, 8 more valley-based firms rank high

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Intel Corp. tops the list of commuter-friendly employers in the nation, according to a report released this week by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Seven of the top 11 Fortune 500 companies on the EPA's top-20 list are in the Bay Area, and three are in Santa Clara.

The companies were lauded for providing such benefits as subsidized transit vouchers under the Commuter Check program, van pools that range as far as Vallejo, a shuttle from BART and Caltrain stations, stipends, and telecommuting.

The EPA says commuter benefits are becoming an imperative for companies, because they attract top employees along with helping the environment.

In order, the firms in the top 20 were:

1. Santa Clara-based Intel (NASDAQ:INTC)
2. Redmond, Wash.-based **Microsoft Corp.** (NASDAQ:MSFT)
3. Mountain View-based **Google Inc.** (NASDAQ:GOOG) and Redwood City-based **Oracle Corp.** (NASDAQ:ORCL) tied
5. San Diego-based **Qualcomm Inc.** (NASDAQ:QCOM)
6. Sunnyvale-based **Yahoo Inc.** (NASDAQ:YHOO)
7. San Jose-based **Cisco Systems Inc.** (NASDAQ:CSCO)
8. Santa Clara-based **Sun Microsystems Inc.** (NASDAQ:SUNW)
9. Dallas-based **Texas Instruments Inc.** (NYSE:TXN)
10. Santa Clara-based **Applied Materials Inc.** (NASDAQ:AMAT)
11. Seattle-based **Safeco Insurance Co.** (NASDAQ:SAFC)
12. Texas-based **Reliant Energy Inc.** (NYSE:RRI)
13. New Jersey-based **Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Inc.** (NYSE:WYE)
14. Cupertino-based **Apple Computer Inc.** (NASDAQ:AAPL)
15. New York-based **International Business Machines Corp.** (NYSE:IBM)
16. Sunnyvale-based **Advanced Micro Devices Inc.** (NYSE:AMD)
17. Tie between Massachusetts-based **EMC Corp.** (NYSE:EMC), Texas-based **El Paso Corp.** (NYSE:EP), and Washington-based **Nike Inc.** (NYSE:NKE)

20. New Jersey-based **Schering-Plough Corp.** (NYSE:SGP)

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